



Public Health
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Frederick County Health Department

News Release

CONTACT: Karen Amoss
Public Information Representative
Environmental Health
301-600-1726
TTY: Use Maryland Relay
KAmoss@frederickcountymd.gov

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CAT TESTS POSITIVE FOR RABIES IN FREDERICK COUNTY

FREDERICK, MD – On June 16, 2014, the Frederick County Health Department received a report from the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene Rabies Laboratory confirming that a young adult, orange cat had tested positive for the rabies virus. The cat was picked up by Animal Control near Deer Crossing Elementary School, New Market Maryland after it attacked a resident on June 11, 2014.

The Health Department recommends that anyone who may have had contact with this cat from June 1 through June 11, 2014 should consult their health care provider and notify the Health Department at 301-600-3342. If any of your pets may have been in contact with the cat, consult with your veterinarian and notify the Health Department at 301-600-1717.

Rabies is a viral disease that infects mammals (warm-blooded animals who nurse their young) and is spread through the saliva of the infected animal, usually via bite. The disease is nearly always fatal to humans. Symptoms of rabies in animals may include fear of water, limping, failure to eat or drink, excessive salivation, unusually friendly or aggressive behavior, or other atypical behaviors such as nocturnal animals emerging during the daytime. Cats account for the majority of rabies in domestic animals in Maryland.

The Frederick County Humane Society is having a dog and cat rabies vaccination clinic on June 22, 2014. For more info call 301-694-8300

George Keller, Director, for the Health Department's Environmental Health Services advises the public, "To protect your family from possible rabies exposure, do not touch or play with wild or stray animals and make sure that your pets are currently vaccinated". If a stray animal comes on your property, do not attempt to contain it. If you or your pets have contact with a stray or wild animal you should call Animal Control at 301-600-1544 to speak with an Animal Control Officer.

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Barbara A. Brookmyer, M.D., M.P.H. ▪ Health Officer

350 Montevue Lane ▪ Frederick, MD 21702

Phone: 301-600-1029 ▪ Fax: 301-600-3111 ▪ MD TTY: 1-800-735-2258

